



Palomar Audubon Society A Chapter of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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March-April 2013

Editor Arne Christiansen

THE SEVEN PLEASURES OF BIRDING

Jeff Ebright t our January program, we watched the movie, "Birders: The Central Park Effect". One thing that has stuck with me from the movie was the answer one of the birders gave to his friends and family as to why he loved to bird watch.

In his "Seven Pleasures of Birding," Chris Cooper explains how these small creatures enhance the lives of the people who watch, listen and learn from their avian neighbors.

THE SEVEN PLEASURES OF BIRDING

1. The beauty of the birds.

2. The beauty of being in a natural setting.

3. The joys of hunting, without the bloodshed.

4. The joy of collecting (in that the practice of keeping lists - life lists, day lists, etc.- appeals to the same impulse as, say, stamp collecting)

- 5. The joy of puzzle-solving (in making those tough identifications)
- 6. The pleasure of scientific discovery (new observations about behavior, etc.)
- 7. The Unicorn Effect-After you've been birding for even a little while, there are birds you've heard of or seen in books that capture your imagination, but you've never seen for yourself...and then one day, there it is in front of you, as if some mythical creature has stepped out of a storybook and come to life. There's no thrill quite like it.

If you get tired of people asking you, "Why do you go bird watching?" as Chris eventually did, these are handy to whip out.



PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY WELCOMES THESE NEW AND RENEWING

CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS:

Linda Martino Diane and Doug Walkley Penny Hernandez Mickey and Doug Nail Sunny and Arne Christiansen John Top Dora and Andy Truban Pattie and Steve Ellis Anna Marie Bovill Lea Barbara and Paul Zeph Mary Harper Lynn and Terry Badger Janet Peyton Vicki and Jeff Ebright

AND WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THESE DONORS:

Paul Bergford Craig Rathbun Dora and Andy Truban Mary Harper Chris Schaefer

Please read the letter on page 2 which summarizes the chapter's accomplishments and the need for support from our members.

Thank you to all!

Inside this Band Tales

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Palomar Audubon Society P.O. Box 2483 Escondido, CA 92033-2483

Dear Members and Friends,

This has been a great year for Palomar Audubon Society! What has made it great is the support of our members and <u>friends.</u> We look forward to an even more successful year in 2013. For this, <u>we need your continuing help.</u> As an organization, we would like to encompass additional events, projects and people. The best way to do this is to present programs that will appeal to the interests of a wide variety of members.

Some of our accomplishments in 2012 and plans for 2013 are:

<u>BIRD WALKS</u> – We had 48 Saturday bird walks with over 900 participants. On average over 50 bird species were observed on each walk and all areas of San Diego County were visited. We continue to look for new areas to bird and to develop new walk leaders. Palomar Audubon is building a positive reputation for the variety, quality, friendliness and encouragement of new birders on its bird walks.

<u>PROGRAMS</u> – We had seven programs on a variety of subjects presented at monthly membership meetings. Presenters ranged from experts in their field to PAS members. We have expanded the scope of the meetings to now include birding identification education at each program.

<u>SCHOLARSHIP</u> – Cody Fluck is the recipient of the PAS 2013 Scholarship Award. Cody will attend a week long ABA Young Birders' Conference in Northern Colorado. We plan on continuing the scholarship and already have two potential candidates for 2014.

BIRD COUNTS - We participated in the Escondido Christmas Bird Count to gather yearly census information. The count in December was very successful with a high level of participation. PAS provided lunch for all the participants. We work to promote participation in The Great Backyard Bird Count and the recording of bird sightings in eBirds.

<u>PUBLICATIONS</u> - We continue to publish "Band Tales", our newsletter, which keeps our membership informed of our meetings, programs, weekly bird walks and items of environmental interest. We are now providing an online copy of "Band Tales" at our website. We have made improvements to our website to add a blog of articles and announcements of interest to our membership. We also added a gallery of photos taken on our bird walks

ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT - We donated to the following organizations in 2012: Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) in Ramona, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), Wilderness Gardens, and Whelan Lake. For the Wildlife Research Institute, we provide funds to do an Eagle Survey of the Ramona Grasslands and provided support to prevent development which would impact nesting Golden Eagles. We plan to continue to support these organizations in 2013.

<u>BIRDING TRIPS OUTSIDE COUNTY</u> – We plan to continue offering these birding trips to our members. We had a very successful trip to Salton Sea in January and have scheduled a trip to the Eastern Sierras this April for Grouse mating displays.

We are successful as an organization only with your help. The <u>MAJOR</u> support for all of our programs and activities comes through your generous donations. If each one of our members donates only \$20, we would meet our financial goals and be able to continue to provide a vibrant and interesting organization for your enjoyment. We hope we have made our case and you will respond using the enclosed envelope. Please make your check to Palomar Audubon Society. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so your gift qualifies as a charitable donation.

Thank you for your support.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW Jeff Ebright

I would like to thank all PAS members that participated in the Christmas Bird Count in Escondido. A special thanks to Penny Hernandez and Sunny Christiansen for organizing the lunch.



Those members that were able to go on the January trip to Salton Sea were treated to seeing 100 different bird species. Doug and Mickey Nail did a wonderful job of organizing and leading this trip. In April, Ed Hall is leading a sold-out trip to the Eastern Sierras. I want thank Doug and Ed for leading these trips. I know they put in extra

time to plan and scout the areas and it is greatly appreciated. Palomar Audubon is lucky to have such expert birders to lead these trips.

For those regular followers of the PAS blog, you may have noticed a change in the Field Trip announcements. I now include a link to the PAS Gallery of photos taken at that location, the previous year's trip report, and a complete list of birds that have been seen in previous years. For those that do not follow the PAS blog, I would encourage you give it a look. I search the internet daily for announcements and articles that I think would be of interest to our members. The blog is available at our website in the Resources tab.

This month begins our annual appeal for donations. With your support we can continue to serve our membership and community. Only a third of our income is from membership dues and without your donations we would not be able to remain active. I want to thank all of you that decide to support Palomar Audubon with your donations. **Hope to see you on one of our upcoming bird walks or programs.**



I 'm sitting here at "command central" also known as the kitchen table which is where I do all my "important" work. I am starting my "Great Backyard Bird Count" this morning (check it out at birdsource.org) and I thought it might be fun to write a conservation article at the same time. Oops, just saw a Cedar Waxwing drop down on the patio to get a very quick drink of water from the bird bath.

Okay, what was I saying? Oops...I just saw the Wrentits quickly move to the suet feeder and just as quickly descend into the ceanothus below. The Lesser Goldfinches are at the Nyjer thistle sock constantly...that's a no-brainer! Yesterday, we had two Lawrence's Goldfinches drop by and Mickey quickly spotted them but they weren't here for long.

Where was I now? Hey, a Red-tailed Hawk just drifted past and was chased by a Red-shouldered Hawk who nests in the Mexican Fan Palms across the street. I hear a Western Scrub Jay scolding someone down below in the oaks. I hear a Spotted Towhee in the bushes...now it's out in the

> open...a bright bird, most likely a male with that black head. There's a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds hanging out in the yard waiting to devour all the suet when the coast is clear. The Anna's Hummingbird is guarding his territory and getting a few insects from "his" perch.

Wow, I'm not making much progress on this

conservation article, am I? There goes a couple of White-crowned Sparrows chasing each other as if there weren't enough food to go around. The House Finches are here in force too. They know when the sunflower seeds go out. Okay, there is a Yellow-rumped Warbler at the birdbath for a quick drink and to see what all the other birds are doing.

I'm running out of space here...not making much progress on the article. Here comes the California Towhee...if I had been up earlier this morning I would have seen him making his rounds bugging the patio....he is usually the first one around, along with the Black Phoebe. Oh, there goes the Lincoln's Sparrow...he sure is fast and cocky. He doesn't take guff from anyone. The Mourning Doves are starting to come onto the roof. That means I'll be getting out more seed. I need to go check out a bird I can't identify. Okay, it was the California Thrasher who we hope will nest in the yard like last year...we had a great time with them when they fledged their young and they hung around for several months then disappeared. Just heard the Nuttall's Woodpecker and can see down the street on the telephone poles an Acorn Woodpecker...in fact there are three of them cavorting about. The Quail are here now scratching around for the seeds the other birds have buried and doing pretty well. We usually have a nest or two in the yard but they are very hard to locate.

Listen, I'm not doing too well on this article. The birds are making it difficult. This is what happens when you plant your yard to attract birds and then feed and provide water for them. Oops, there goes the Cooper's Hawk along with all the other birds...he didn't score this time.

Good Birding!

Doug

Dolomon Auduhon Society	FIELD TRIPS Jim Beckman
Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership	hether a seasoned birder or a beginner, you are
Mail your application to:	♥ ♥ welcome to join us. For more information call the trip leader shown below. Heavy rain cancels trips.
Palomar Audubon Society P. O. Box 2483 Escondido, CA 92033-2483	Locations in Thomas Guide Coordinates are shown in parenthesis as (Page-Column Row). Ratings: 1=easy, suitable for all levels, 2=moderate, a bit more walking and possibly some hilly terrain, 3=challenging, longer
Membership in the Palomar Audubon Society includes a subscription to Band Tales , Palomar Audubon's bi-	hikes and may involve some steep terrain. Saturday, March 2
monthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly	San Diego Bird Festival – No Field Trip
programs and weekly field trips.	Saturday, March 9, 8:30 a.m. Santee Lakes
 New Member - \$20 New Family Member - \$25 Renewal - \$25 (payable to Palomar Audubon Society) 	Santee (1231-A5) Rating: 2 From I-15 go east on Highway 52. Exit at Mast Boulevard. Continue east on Mast Boulevard to Fanita Parkway. Turn right and continue south to the entrance to Santee Lakes on your
Contribution	right. Car entry fee is \$5. OR from Mast Boulevard, turn left on Fanita Parkway, and continue north to Lake Canyon. Turn right, park and walk in the open gate for free. Meet in the parking lot by the General Store between lakes 4 & 5.
Name	Leader: Jim Beckman
Address	858-205-2819 Saturday, March 16, 8:30 a.m.
	San Jacinto Wildlife Area
CityStateZIP	Riverside County (RC 749-B4) Rating: 2
Telephone	From San Diego County take I-15 north to I-215. Exit at the Ramona Expressway right (east). Continue east to Lakeview (a small town.) At the stoplight, turn left
E-mail	(north) on Davis Road. Proceed on the asphalt and gravel road for three miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot
100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.	on the right. From Escondido allow 75 minutes drive time. Leader: Sally Sanderson 760-749-6995
:	Saturday, March 23, 8:30 a.m.
	Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Oceanside
	(1066-F7) Rating: 2
	From Highway 78 west, exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. From I-5 north exit east on Highway 76 and continue to the Douglas Drive exit.
ANATISTICAL	Take Douglas Drive north approximately 1 mile and turn left on North River Road to the entrance gate at the end.
	<u>NOTE:</u> Arrive no later than 8:15 a.m. Park, and we will wait for the caretaker to open the locked gate. We

JOIN THE FUN!

see FIELD TRIPS, Page 4

will then enter the Bird Sanctuary as a group. If the gate is open, proceed to the Sanctuary. Disregard the

"No Trespassing" Signs. Don't be late!

Leader: David Mathis

760-754-5215

from FIELD TRIPS, Page 4

Saturday, March 30, 8:30 a.m. Lake Hodges Del Dios (1149-E4) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido exit at Via Rancho Parkway and drive west to Lake Drive. Turn left and drive about 1/2 mile. Meet at Del Dios Park across from the Country Store. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and a whole host of local residents.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, April 6, 8:30 a.m.

San Pasqual Agricultural Trail

(Back by popular demand!) Escondido

(1151-B1) Rating: 2

Meet at the Ysabel Creek Road trailhead at the intersection Ysabel Creek Rd. & Bandy Canyon Road. This intersection can be reached from Highland Valley Road east off of Pomerado Road & I-15, or from Highway 78 east of the Wild Animal (Safari) Park. We hope to see local residents, which include Cactus Wren, Greater Roadrunner, and a few raptors, possibly the Zone -tailed Hawk.

Leader: Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

> Saturday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve** Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County http://www.bigmorongo.org/

(SB 616-J5) Rating: 1

From Escondido, proceed north on I-15 for approximately 36 miles to the I-15/I-215 split in Murrieta. Change to I-215 north and continue about 30 miles to Highway 60 east. Take Highway 60 east then continuing east on I-10 to Highway 62, approximately 40 miles. Go north on Highway 62 to Morongo Valley (a small town), about 12 miles. About a mile or two into town, look for signs for Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Turn right (south) on East Drive, a dirt road, to the Preserve. The parking lot is just beyond. Picnic tables and restrooms are available. In the caretaker's yard, several hummingbird and seed feeders will attract many birds for your enjoyment. This location is always a spring hot spot and favorite PAS field trip. Bring a lunch for an after birding picnic at the bird feeders. Allow 2 hours travel time from Escondido. Leader: Doug Nail

760-451-9370

Old Mission Dam San Diego http://www.mtrp.org/park.asp (1230-F6) Rating: 2

Take Highway 52 east to the Mast Boulevard exit in Santee. Turn north/east onto Mast Boulevard and then right at the 1st traffic signal (West Hills Parkway). Take West Hills Parkway to Mission Gorge Road and turn right. Take Mission Gorge Road 0.2 miles and merge right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Proceed 0.7 miles down Father Juniper Serra Trail to the Old Mission Dam parking lot, located on the right. This should be prime time for spring migrants.

Leader: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

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Saturday, April 27, 8:00 a.m.

(Note new Spring/Summer start time) **Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley** San Diego (1350 - D5) Rating: 2

From North County, take the I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Road (south.) Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large "TJRV County Park" sign and the pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also caravan a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public restroom and bird feeders) and then visit the nearby Bird & Butterfly Garden where there is a chance of seeing the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay. Leader: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.

Daley Ranch Escondido

(1110-C3) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido, exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Look for the "Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left on La Honda Drive. Continue north toward Dixon Lake and on to the free Daley Ranch parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.

Leader: David Mathis 760-754-5215





Birds of Joshua Tree National Park Class

(UCR Credit:	1 unit)
Date/Time:	Friday, April 26, 6 pm – 8 pm, Saturday, April 27, 7:30 am – 4:30 pm,
	Sunday, April 28, 7 am – 12 pm
Meet at:	Black Rock Visitor Center
Fee:	\$125 members, \$135 non-members
Credit Fee:	\$175 members, \$185 non-members
Instructor:	Kurt Leuschner, M.S., Wildlife Ecology,
	Professor College of the Desert

Hike level: Easy to Moderate

he deceptively barren Mojave Desert landscape is home and resting grounds for numerous endemic and migratory bird species. Joshua trees do not make a typical forest, the landscape is open, the climate dry and vegetation relatively sparse. Despite this, over 240 species of birds have been recorded in Joshua Tree National Park! Kurt Leuschner, Professor of College of the Desert, Palm Desert, will guide this three-day field class through the Mojave and Colorado Deserts to identify common and rare birds. Leuschner's focus will be on identifying individual species and separating summer and winter residents from true migrants. He will discuss nesting and feeding habits, interactions with plant life, and adaptive strategies. Participants will have the thrill of identifying the park's common spring bird species, better understand the role each plays in the high desert ecosystem, and have the chance of sighting rare species like the Pinyon Jay, Prairie Falcon, or Lawrence's Goldfinch.

Please take the time to review our General Class Information and Fitness Levels before registering Online at **www.joshuatree.org/desert-institute/**.

PROGRAMS

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the <u>Remington Club</u>, <u>16916 Hierba Drive</u>, <u>Rancho Bernardo</u>. There is a social period beginning at 7:00 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:30 pm.

March 28

Gary Nunn "The Common, and Not So Common Birds of San Diego County"

Local birder and San Diego Field Ornithologists Vice President Gary Nunn takes us on a birding journey examining rare birds and how to identify them in San Diego County. Rare birds can be found by anyone, but the observer needs to be armed with the right information and be in the right place at the right time. Digital photography can be of critical importance to bird identification. We will see how photographic images and sound recordings have changed the skills needed for field ornithologists and what lays ahead for successfully finding the very rarest vagrant birds.

April 25 **Doug Nail** "Borneo, Another World"

B orneo has fifty species of birds found no where else in the world. On April 25, 2013 Doug Nail will present a program for Palomar Audubon Society on his recent trip to Borneo. Doug will be talking about the people, the places and the birds he found. Come see what Doug saw. Bring a friend and remember it's free!





DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE IS APRIL 15TH. SUBMIT COPY TO <u>arnec@juno.com</u>

Interesting Bird TidBits

A newspaper article provided by Mickey Nail tells of a river otter spotted by bird watchers in San Francisco Bay. It is the first time in decades that a river otter has made San Francisco its home.



Another newspaper article of interest mentions an owl in Indonesia which finally gets recognized as a new species. The Rinjani Scops owl was first identified in 2003 by researchers looking for a nocturnal bird in Indonesia. The discovery was not published for ten due to the work needed to verify the finding. The small owl with brown and white feathers and big golden eyes has only been spotted on Lombok Island about fifteen miles from Bali.



Lastly, it has been reported that Ruby-throated hummingbirds are migrating to North America weeks earlier than in decades past and research indicates that higher temperatures in their winter habitat may be the reason. Researchers say the early arrival may mean less food at nesting time for the tiny birds. The birds, which weigh less than a nickel, fly hundreds of miles over the Gulf of Mexico to arrive in North America.



The Annual Palomar Audubon Society Picnic is fast approaching. Put **Sunday**, **June** 2nd on your calendar now so you don't miss this year's bash. Bert and Sharon Kersey have generously offered their wonderful home in Fallbrook as this year's location. **This is one not to be missed.** This year's picnic will be a grand old-fashioned Western Picnic. Wear your Sunday best western wear (boots, hats, shirts and skirts, or your very best jeans.)

We had interest in another Photo Contest, so how about the best picture of any bird whose name starts with "Western?" Some possibilities are: Western Tanager, Western Meadowlark, Western Wood Pewee, Western Kingbird, Western Scrub Jay, Western Bluebird, Western Grebe, Western Sandpiper, Western Screech Owl or any other I missed

Additional information will be included in the next issue of Band Tales, but save this date NOW!



2013 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Palomar Audubon Society is pleased to announce our 2013 scholarship recipient. Dakotah Fluck will be attending the American Birding Association's Young Birders Camp in July, 2013. Kody, who also was a scholarship recipient in 2011, will be attending Camp Colorado this year. Thanks to the support of our donors, he will experience a week of fellowship with other young birders in northern Colorado. Here he will visit shortgrass prairies and the aspen groves and alpine tundra of Rocky Mountain National Park in the company of other young birders and expert instructors and field guides.

In this issue you will be invited to become a contributor to PAS. As you consider this request, keep in mind that your donation will be well directed to the encouragement of young birders who hold an interest in the future preservation and appreciation of our wildlife and avian species.

Thanks for considering a gift in the support of these efforts. And, congratulations to Kody!

Band Tales March-April, 2013

The **Band Tales** is an official publication of the Palomar Audubon Society; it is issued bi-monthly and sent to all members as a part of their National Audubon Society membership or Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only membership.

